

Michigan Ethanol Working Group News



Who We Are

The Ethanol Working Group (EWG) is a coalition of private and non-profit organizations, universities, and local and state government agencies interested in the promotion of ethanol in Michigan.

Contact Information

If you are interested in receiving the Michigan EWG News and/or have ethanol-related information you would like to submit for this publication, contact Kelly Launder, Michigan Biomass Energy Program Coordinator at (517) 241-6223 or by email at: klaund@michigan.gov

Additional ethanol information is available on the Michigan Biomass Energy Program website at <http://michiganbioenergy.org> and the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan website at www.micorn.org

EWG 2002 Projects

EWG committee projects were finalized at the February meeting. Projects to be completed include: developing a survey to identify consumer perceptions of ethanol, creating educational pieces and public service announcements for Michigan Farm News and Michigan Radio Network, and working with station owners and distributors on taking the E-85 tax credit and other pricing issues.

Ethanol Plant Update

The Michigan Department of Agriculture has released \$2.4 million of the \$4.7 million ethanol grant/incentive to Michigan Ethanol, LLC for the Caro ethanol plant. The Michigan Department of Transportation is providing additional funds for infrastructure improvements to accommodate the new ethanol facility.

Additional Updates

Testing Completed for Bio-oil

Great Lakes Oil Company recently completed field tests for a 100% vegetable-based, biodegradable motor oil, with the assistance of MI Biomass Energy Program/U.S. Dept. of Energy funding. Emission testing found hydrocarbon (HC) and carbon monoxide (CO) reductions of more than 30% in vehicles using the oil. Additional benefits included reduced oil consumption and improved lubricity, which can reduce engine wear. Project investigators also plan to conduct testing to ensure the oil's compatibility with E-85 vehicles.

Michigan Funding Opportunity

The Michigan Biomass Energy Program (MBEP) has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for state projects in the following categories: *Biofuel/Bioenergy Education, Biofuels Infrastructure, and Biomass Technology Development and/or Demonstrations*. The maximum grant award is \$20,000 except for Education projects, which have a maximum grant award of \$5,000. If you're interested in receiving the RFP contact Kelly Launder, MBEP Coordinator at (517) 241-6223 or by email at klaund@michigan.gov.

E-diesel testing continues

It was recently announced that John Deere will partner with the Renewable Fuels Assn., the National Corn Growers Assn., and the Illinois Dept. of Commerce & Community Affairs to complete testing on E-diesel fuel. (Renewable Fuels Association, *Ethanol Report*, 25 February 2002.) E-diesel includes ethanol blends of up to 15%. This new fuel can be used in diesel vehicles without any modifications. E-diesel could provide a considerable increase in demand for ethanol as diesel vehicles in the U.S. consume approximately 50 billions gallons of diesel a year.